

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 FREETO 00306 261805Z

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 EUR-12 DHA-02 SSO-00 NSCE-00

USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /075 W

-----261808Z 054516 /53

O P 261706Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4707

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BANJUL PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

S E C R E T FREETOWN 0306

FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJ: CONVERSATION WITH REV. SITHOLE ON CURRENT RHODESIAN
SITUATION

REF: MONROVIA 539 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY. REVEREND SITHOLE CALLED ON ME JANUARY 26, DESIRING
TO TOUCH BASE AFTER EARLIER CALL ON AMBASSADOR CARTER IN
MONROVIA (REFTEL). HE MADE CLEAR HIS BELIEF THAT RECOGNITION
BY FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS OF PATRIOTIC FRONT WAS LATEST ATTEMPT
BY KAUNDA TO BOLSTER NKOMO. HIS CURRENT MISSION AIMED TO FORE-
STALL EARLY OAU CONCURRENCE IN FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS' RE-
COGNITION. CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
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PAGE 02 FREETO 00306 261805Z

ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE IS HIGH PRIORITY AND SUPPORT OF FRIENDS
INCLUDING USG BEING SOLICITED. END SUMMARY.

2. REVEREND SITHOLE CALLED ON ME AFTERNOON JANUARY 26 TO
INFORM ME OF PURPOSE HIS CURRENT VISIT TO SIERRA LEONE AND
TO PASS MESSAGE TO USG. SITHOLE CLEARLY VIEWED HIS CALL ON ME
AS A FOLLOW-UP TO ONE THAT HE HAD MADE ON AMBASSADOR CARTER

IN MONROVIA AND ASSUMED I WAS FAMILIAR WITH THE DISCUSSIONS.

3. ALTHOUGH SITHOLE HAS BEEN IN TOWN FOUR DAYS, HE HAS NOT YET HAD MEETINGS WITH SENIOR GOSL OFFICIALS. HE EXPECTS TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTER MINAH AT 0930 JANUARY 27 AND HOPES TO MEET WITH PRESIDENT STEVENS SOON THEREAFTER. HE DEPARTS AFTERNOON JANUARY 27 FOR CONAKRY WITH SUBSEQUENT STOPS IN BANJUL, DAKAR, AND PERHAPS LAGOS BEFORE RETURNING TO DAR ES SALAAM NEXT WEEK.

4. SITHOLE' MESSAGE DIFFERED LITTLE FROM THAT REPORTED REFTEL. SOMEWHAT DISINGENUOUSLY, HE ASSERTED THAT SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT BY FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS MAY HELP RATHER THAN HURT HIS CAUSE, SINCE IT MAY DISCREDIT THEIR POSITION WHICH HAS NOW BEEN BROUGHT INTO THE OPEN. DISCREDITING WILL COME AS RESULT OF FACT THAT PATRIOTIC FRONT CAN BE SHOWN NOT TO REPRESENT THE POPULATION OF ZIMBABWE. SITHOLE FREQUENTLY REITERATED HIS DISDAIN FOR KAUNDA'S VARIOUS HISTORICAL AND CONTEMPORARY MOVES TO KEEP KNOMO IN THE FOREFRONT OF THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE ZIMBABWE MANEUVERING. SITHOLE ALLEGED THAT NEITHER NKOMO NOR MUGABE COULD COMMAND SIGNIFICANT INTERNAL SUPPORT.

5. SITHOLE SAID PURPOSE OF HIS CURRENT MISSION WAS TO CONVINCE AFRICAN LEADERS THAT IT WOULD BE FOLLY TO HAVE THE OAU SUPPORT ANY OF THE FACTIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME. HE ALLEGED THAT OAU ACTIONS TO THIS EFFECT WOULD CAUSE QUOTE ANOTHER ANGOLA UNQUOTE. HE SAID THAT HIS SHORT-TERM GOAL WAS TO FEND OFF EARLY RECOGNITION OF PATRIOTIC FRONT AT FEBRUARY FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 FREETO 00306 261805Z

6. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION OF WHAT HE COULD EXPECT FROM THE GOSL GIVEN THEIR PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE PATRIOTIC FRONT DURING THE RECENT VISIT BY PRESIDENT KAUNDA, SITHOLE SAID HE WOULD APPEAL TO SIERRA LEONEAN QUOTE STATESMANSHIP UNQUOTE. HE WAS CONVINCED THAT GOSL LEADERS, ESPECIALLY PRESIDENT STEVENS, UPON SEEING THE FACTS OF THE ZIMBABWE SITUATION WOULD REALIZE THEIR MISTAKE AND WOULD ACT ACCORDINGLY.

7. SITHOLE SAID THAT HE INTENDED FOR ZANU TO CALL A CONSULTATIVE CONFERENCE OUTSIDE ZIMBABWE, PERHAPS IN MALAWI OR KENYA, TO BRING TOGETHER REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALL ZIMBABWE SO THAT ALL THE WORLD COULD HEAR THE WIDHES OF THE PEOPLE. HE REPEATED HIS NEED FOR DOLS300,000 FOR THIS CONFERENCE AND SAID HE WAS SEEKING HELP FROM MANY SOURCES FOR THIS SUM. IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARDS, BUT NOT NECESSARILY DIRECTLY AS IT RELATED TO THE ABOVE DOLS300,000, SITHOLE SAID THAT HE WAS LOOKING FOR SIGN OF IMMEDIATE SUPPORT FROM THE USG AT THIS TIME. HE SAID THAT SUCH AID COULD BE GIVEN QUOTE QUIETLY UNQUOTE,

BUT THAT HE DEFINITELY THOUGHT SUCH A SIGN IMPORTANT SO THAT, AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO INDICATE TO HIS FOLLOWERS THAT THE USG HAD BEEN HELPFUL DURING THE PRE-INDEPENDENCE STRUGGLE. HE VIEWED THIS AS NECESSARY, IN ORDER TO FEND OFF THE INTENTIONS OF RUSSIA, WHICH HE SAID WAS ALREADY TRYING TO QUOTE STICK ITS NOSE IN THE DOOR UNQUOTE. HE DECLINED TO BE SPECIFIC AS TO WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT.

8. IN THE COURSE OF THE CALL, SITHOLE PROVIDED ME WITH FOUR DOCUMENTS WHICH HE IS CIRCULATING TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES. THEY ARE: (1) MEMORANDUM ON THE INTERFERENCE OF THE FRONTLINE STATES IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF ZIMBABWE, (2) PETITION TO THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN UNITY ON THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE FRONTLINE STATES, (3) EXPLANATION TO THE OAU HEADS OF STATE ON THE TRUE NATURE OF ZIPA WHICH HAS BEEN IMPOSED ON THE PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE BY THE FRONTLINE STATES, AND (4) AN EXPLANATION OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT FOR THE BENEFIT
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PAGE 04 FREETO 00306 261805Z

OF THE OAU HEADS OF STATE. SEPTELS FOLLOW WITH TEXTS OF ABOVE DOCUMENTS (1) TO (3).
SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 26-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Release Date: n/a
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Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3499502
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONVERSATION WITH REV. SITHOLE ON CURRENT RHODESIAN SITUATION
TAGS: PFOR, RH, US, (SITHOLE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/263208d1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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